

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 November 24, 2024

**If I Knew I Were Going to Die Tomorrow,
 What Would I Tell My Children Today?**

by Bryan Gibson

Forgive me for the sins I've committed against you. It could be you still have some things against me (Matthew 5:23-24), so I need to make sure I'm forgiven by you—and by God. I've tried hard, but I know my example has been imperfect. I've been too harsh at times, other times not firm enough. Please forgive me and make it your aim to be a better parent to your children than I've been to you.

I love each one of you, and very deeply so (I've had a very deep love to imitate—Ephesians 3:14-19). Your mother and I rejoiced the day you were born (John 16:21), but that was nothing compared to the feelings we had when you were born again (John 3:3-5). I'm looking forward to an eternal reward (2 Timothy 4:6-8), but you children have been my reward here on this earth (Psalms 127:3-5). I've tried to demonstrate my

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love in a variety of ways, but I do hope you remember most the love I've shown for your soul.

Take really good care of your mother. It's just one of the many ways you can be like Jesus (John 19:25-27). "Spend and be spent for your souls" (2 Corinthians 12:15)—that pretty much sums up your mother. I believe she helped make up for my deficiencies as a parent—when I didn't have time (or didn't think I did), she did; when I was too soft, she was firm; when I was too harsh, she provided the softer touch. So "repay" your mom (1 Timothy 5:4), something you probably already know you won't be able to completely do.

Serve the Lord faithfully, and that means daily (Luke 9:23). Jesus died for you so that you might live for Him (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). I pray you have good health, that your families enjoy some measure of prosperity, but above all, I pray for the prosperity of your souls (3 John 1:2). Whatever you may accomplish in this life, whatever happiness you may find—it won't mean a thing if you lose your soul (Matthew 16:26).

And make sure our precious grandchildren understand these things, too. Make sure you prepare them for the life beyond this one. You already know what's most important to God (Jeremiah 9:23-24; Galatians 6:14; Matthew 16:26)—make sure they know it too, through your words and your example.

Keep reading, studying, and meditating on God's word (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:1-3). His word is such a special treasure to me, and I've just fallen in love with it. When I've made a mess of things was when I either wasn't studying like I should, or when I ignored what I had studied. Bottom line, I shudder to think where I would be without the light of God's

word, the (many more) foolish decisions I would have made without its guidance, how unprepared I would be for this time of departure (2 Timothy 4:6).

"Heaven holds all to me," and I sure hope it's the same for you. It's where I plan on going, and it's been my hope for each of you since the day you were born. To adapt Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 2:19: "What is MY hope or joy or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even YOU in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?" This time of sorrow—I wish I could say it's your last, but it's not. But that's okay, because these times of sorrow will make you long for a better place—a place Jesus has prepared for you (John 14:3); a place where you never die, where there is no more pain or sorrow (Revelation 21:4); a place that needs no light, because it is completely lit up by the glory of God (Revelation 21:23; 22:5). Think of the best day you've ever had, multiply that joy by 10 million (is that enough?), and then imagine every day throughout eternity being just like that. And to borrow from the great hymn, *Amazing Grace*: "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright, shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

One more thing—please sing, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, at my funeral. It just happens to be my favorite song. Yes, because it exalts Christ and His cross, but also because it helps put me in my right place. And that's because it's based on Galatians 6:14: "Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." I have tried to base my life on that passage and that song, and I sincerely hope you will, too.